

April 29, 1975

was suggested by the liquor wholesalers if the bill is going to be passed it simply is an administrative change. I move the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the Committee Amendment? If not the question is shall the committee amendments be adopted? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes 1 nay to adopte the committee amendment.

SENATOR SAVAGE PRESIDING.

PRESIDENT: Committee amendments have been adopted, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, LB340 is what is known as an affirmation bill. The intent of the bill is to insure that liquor is sold in Nebraska at the lowest price available anywhere in the United States of America. What has happened is that high volume states have customarily been in a position to get better prices in terms of liquor. Consequently it reflects as a higher price in low volume states like Nebraska. I wish that I could claim that this is unique and original with me as a thought, but 18 other states across the country have followed suit and have instituted a law similar to that one that I proposed to you today. Of course the lowest possible liquor prices are usually in Washing, D. C. for some various obvious reasons which I won't go into at this point and time. But this bill is very simple. It simply provides that Nebraskans can buy liquor at the lowest possible price. It is a motherhood bill that ought to be without opposition and I would ask that it be moved to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature and Senator Lewis would you answer a question? I'm going to try an establish something by trying to analogizing from another situation first. Are you aware of some instances that high energy users like gas and electricity, the more they use the less becomes there cost.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes, that is right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it a practice in this system of free enterprize, that is what they call it, and you said that this is Americana here so I will deal in Americana too, according to the principles of Americana if you buy large amounts of something at one time, do you get it for a lesser amount per unit? Generally, is that what happens?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes, as a general rule if you are talking about volume buying that is right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Lewis, if your bill is being adopted or a form of it throughout the country and every state winds up with a bill like this, would there then be one price throughout the country for alcoholic beverages excluding beer?